[0055] As shown in **FIG. 7**, the switching element **11** includes an electrode **13***a* and a conductive pattern **13***b* which are formed of Ag paste at both sides of a resin sheet **12** formed of PET. The electrode **13***a* and the conductive pattern **13***b* are formed on the resin sheet **12** by printing, etc.

[0056] The electrode **13***a* is formed at the top side of the resin sheet **12**, and includes a circular electrode **13***a***1** formed at the center thereof and an annular electrode **13***a***2** formed around the circular electrode **13***a***1** with a predetermined gap therebetween. A conductive pattern is formed continuously from a part of the electrode **13***a***2**. The conductive pattern **13***b* is formed at the bottom side of the resin sheet **12** and is connected to the electrode **13***a***1**. More specifically, a through hole is formed in the resin sheet **12** at a position under the electrode **13***a***1**, and a connecting conductor **14** which electrically connects the conductive pattern **13***b* and the electrode **13***a***1** is formed inside the through hole. In addition, a dome-shaped (diaphragm-like) inversion plate **15** is formed at the upper side of the electrode **13***a***2** such that the inversion plate **15** is in contact with the electrode **13***a***2** at the periphery thereof and the top point of the inversion plate **15** is positioned directly above the electrode **13***a***1**.

[0057] A resist film **16***a* is disposed at the periphery of the inversion plate **15**, and another resist film **16***b* is disposed under the conductive pattern **13***b*. A resin sheet **17** formed of PET is laminated so as to cover the entire surface of the switching element **11**, and the resist film **16***b* is bonded to a metal base **18** with an adhesive layer **19**, whereby the switching element **11** is constructed.

[0058] Switching elements constructed as described, with reference to **FIG. 7**, above are installed under the flat input device **4** in place of the inversion plates **10** shown in **FIGS. 2A and 2B**. When the, flat input device **4** is pushed from above by a finger, both the flat input device **4** and the indicator sheet **7** are deformed and the corresponding inversion plate **15** is pushed downward by the pushing force. Accordingly, the inversion plate **15** is inverted as shown by the dotted chain lines in **FIG. 7**, so that the inversion plate **15** comes into contact with the electrode **13***a***1**. As a result, the electrode **13***a* and the conductive pattern **13***b* are electrically connected to each other, through the inversion plate **15**, so that a switch output is changed to ON. When, for example, the switch output is turned ON, the coordinate input signal generated by the flat input device **4** is ignored and only the input from the switching element **11** is recognized by the control unit **21**. In addition, when the inversion plate **15** is inverted, the reaction force generated by the inversion plate **15** is transmitted to the operator's finger as a tactile feel. On the contrary, when the switching element **11** is not operated, the input operation of the flat input device **4** is recognized by the control unit **21**.

[0059] In addition, the above-described switches provided for each indication mark **8** may be connected to a single switch circuit, and the switch circuit may be constructed such that the output therefrom is set to ON when any one of the switches is pushed. In such a case, when the output from the switch circuit is turned ON, detection signals of the flat input device **4** may be ignored, that is, the mode in which only the switch input of the indication marks **8** is recognized may be selected.

[0060] Next, an input apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to **FIGS. 8, 9A**, and 9B. **FIG. 8** is an exploded perspective view of the input apparatus, and **FIGS. 9A and 9B** are sectional views of **FIG. 8** cut along line IX-IX, wherein **FIG. 9A** shows a state in which the input apparatus is not operated and **FIG. 9B** shows a state in which the input apparatus is being operated.

[0061] In an input apparatus **30** shown in **FIG. 8**, which is formed as a mobile phone, a display panel **3** which serves as a display unit and an input unit are mounted on a housing **2**. This input apparatus **30** includes a flat input device **31** which is different from that of the above-described input apparatus **1**. Other constructions of the input apparatus **30** are similar those of the above-described input apparatus **1**, and explanations thereof are thus omitted.

[0062] The flat input device **31** is of a pressure-sensitive type or a capacitive type, and an X-direction detection electrode and a Y-direction detection electrode are disposed such that they oppose each other in a matrix pattern with a resin sheet formed of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) therebetween. The resin sheet provided with the above-described electrodes are disposed on a rigid substrate formed of a glass-epoxy resin or a metal. In addition, a indicator sheet **7** which is formed similarly to the first embodiment is laminated and fixed on the surface of the flat input device **31** at the front side and a tactile-feel-generating unit **33** is disposed behind the flat input device **31**.

[0063] The tactile-feel-generating unit **33** includes a projection **35** formed such that an end thereof is moveable in the vertical direction. The projection **35** is formed behind the flat input device **31** at the center of a base **36** formed as a recess in the housing **2**. Thus, the input apparatus is constructed such that a tactile feel is generated by a reaction force or the like when the projection **35** is pushed from above. The tactile-feel-generating unit **33** may also be formed of the above-described dome-shaped inversion plate.

[0064] A pantograph like device **34** is disposed between the flat input device **31** and the base **36** as an elevation unit.

[0065] As shown in **FIG. 8**, the flat input device **31** is supported by the pantograph like device **34** such that the flat input device **31** is able to move, while being maintained horizontal, in the vertical direction. The pantograph like device **34** has parallel upper and lower contact surfaces that can move vertically relative to each other while maintaining their parallel relationship.

[0066] In the state shown in **FIG. 9**A, that is, in a state in which the operation is not performed, the pantograph **34** is slightly stretched upward so that the flat input apparatus **31** and the indicator sheet **7** are positioned at the upper end of the housing **2**. At this time, the flat input device **31** may be raised by the elastic force applied from the protrusion **35** or by an electric member (not shown), such as a coil spring, provided on the base **36**.

[0067] When the flat input device **31** is pushed at any location from above by a finger or the like, the pantograph **34** collapses and the flat input device **31** and the indicator sheet **7** are evenly pressed downward. As a result, a reaction force generated when the projection **35** is pushed is transmitted to the operator as a tactile feel, so that the operator reliably recognizes that he or she has pressed the flat input device **31**.